

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
 Dwight D. Keen
 Annie Kuether

In the Matter of the Application of Golden Belt)
Telephone Association, Inc., for Tariff) Docket No. 26-GNBT-087-TAR
Changes Related to the Cessation of Annual)
Distribution of a Dated Directory.)

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Commission”) for consideration and determination. Having examined its files and records, the Commission finds and concludes:

1. On August 22, 2024, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. 24-GIMT-380-MIS adopting the Joint Staff and RLECs Proposed Replacement for the 1067 Directive Regarding Directories (“24-380 Order”).¹ The 24-380 Order eliminated any requirement that mandated Rural Local Exchange Carriers (“RLECs”) to physically print and distribute a telephone directory to subscribers.² The 24-380 Order also allows RLECs to provide directories in any format or manner an individual RLEC deems most cost-effective, upon request from a subscriber, subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 6 of the 24-380 Order.³

2. Paragraph 6 of the 24-380 Order creates the following conditions on an RLEC that elects to discontinue to distribute a formal bound and printed directory:

- Each RLEC will provide at least 90 days’ notice before ceasing the distribution of a printed directory to every subscriber, through bill messages, bill inserts, website announcements and social media messaging, including information

¹ Order Adopting Joint Staff and RLECs Proposed Replacement for 1967 Directive Regarding Directories (Aug. 22, 2024) (“the 24-380 Order”).

² 24-380 Order, p. 4.

³ *Id.*

on (1) accessing any online or electronic directory; and (2) requesting a paper copy of the directory from the RLEC;

- The notice will also include information on how customers can communicate with the respective RLEC, or the Commission;
- The RLEC will inform new customers that they will not be receiving a printed directory, and will provide new customers with information on how to access an online directory or obtain a printed directory upon request; and
- RLECs that elect to stop distributing directories will send annual reminders to their customers that a printed directory will no longer be provided, but that the customer may request a simple paper/PDF copy of directory information.⁴

3. On September 2, 2025, Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. (“Golden Belt”) filed an application in the above-captioned docket seeking Commission approval to incorporate tariff changes to implement its in-process cessation of printing and annually distributing a dated telephone directory in accordance with the 24-380 Order.⁵ Additionally, Golden Belt’s application sought to correct one typographical error found on Original Sheet 9 in Part 1.⁶ In its application, Golden Belt requested its tariff revisions be effective October 2, 2025.⁷

4. In accordance with the Commission’s authority pursuant to K.S.A. 66-117(c), the Commission suspended this docket until April 30, 2026, to allow Commission Staff (“Staff”) adequate time to analyze Golden Belt’s application.⁸

5. On September 10, 2025, Golden Belt filed updated tariff sheets in the above-captioned docket, in response to a request made by Staff to correct minor layout errors contained in Part 1, Sheet 7, of Golden Belt’s initial application.⁹ On September 12, 2025, Golden Belt filed additional updated tariff sheets in the above-captioned docket, in response to a request made by

⁴ *Id.*, p. 3. These conditions are herein referred to as the “paragraph 6 conditions”.

⁵ Application of Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc., Docket No. 26-GNBT-087-TAR (Sep. 2, 2025) (“Application”).

⁶ Application, p. 1.

⁷ *Id.*, p. 2.

⁸ Suspension Order: April 30, 2026, Docket No. 26-GNBT-087-TAR (Sep. 9, 2025).

⁹ Golden Belt Telephone Assoc., Inc. Revised Part 1 Sheet 7, Docket No. 26-GBNT-087-TAR (Sep. 10, 2025).

Staff to correct minor layout errors contained in part 2, Sheet 7, of Golden Belt’s initial application.¹⁰

6. On September 12, 2025, Staff submitted its Report and Recommendation (“R&R”), which is attached hereto as **Attachment A**.¹¹ Staff ultimately recommended that the Commission find that Golden Belt’s September 2, 2025, application, including the amended Part 1, Sheet 7 and Part 2, Sheet 7 tariff sheets filed in the above-captioned docket on September 10 and 12, respectively, complies with the directives of the 24-380 Order.¹² Therefore, Staff recommended that the Commission approve Golden Belt’s revisions to its Local Exchange Tariff with an effective date of October 2, 2025, subject to Golden Belt’s continued compliance with the notice requirements set forth in paragraph 6 of the Commission’s 24-380 Order.¹³

7. The Commission derives its authority to review Local Exchange Carrier tariffs from K.S.A. 66-117(d), which states in part:

....(d) Except as provided in subsection (c), no change shall be made in any rate, toll, charge, classification, or schedule of charges or joint rates, or in any rule or regulation or practice pertaining to the service or rates of any such public utility or common carrier, without the consent of the commission.

8. The Commission must review rates and terms for jurisdictional telecommunications services to ensure they are “just and reasonable” pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,189. Further, K.S.A. 66-1,189 requires the Commission to ensure that all classifications, rules, and regulations regarding the services are not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

K.S.A. 66-1,190 provides in part that telecommunications public utilities doing business in Kansas shall:

¹⁰ Golden Belt Telephone Assoc., Inc., corrected Part 2 Sheet 7, Docket No. 26-GBNT-087-TAR (Sep. 12, 2025).

¹¹ Report and Recommendation, Utilities Division, Docket No. 26-GBNT-087-TAR (Sep. 10, 2025) (“Staff’s R&R” or “R&R”).

¹² Staff’s R&R, p. 2.

¹³ Staff’s R&R, p. 3.

... publish and file with the commission copies of all schedules of rates, joint rates, tolls charges, classifications, and divisions of rates affecting Kansas traffic, either state or interstate... and... the commission shall have power to prescribe reasonable rules and regulations regarding the form and filing of all schedules, tariffs, and classifications of all rates, joint rates, tolls, and charges and all rules and regulations of such telecommunications public utilities...

9. The Commission finds that the recommendations contained in Staff's September 12, 2025, R&R are just and reasonable and incorporates them by reference herein.

10. The Commission finds that Golden Belt's September 2, 2025, application, including the amended Part 1, Sheet 7, filed September 10, 2025, and the amended Part 2, Sheet 7, filed September 12, complies with the directives set forth in the 24-380 Order.

11. The Commission concludes that Golden Belt's tariff revisions should be approved as requested, with an effective date of October 2, 2025.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.'s application, as amended by Golden Belt's September 10, 2025, and September 12, 2025, filings in the above-captioned docket, is hereby granted, with an effective date of October 2, 2025.

B. Golden Belt is directed to comply with the customer notification provisions set forth above in paragraph 2 referencing the Commission's Order in Docket No. 24-GIMT-380-MIS.

C. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).¹⁴

¹⁴ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 09/23/2025



Celeste Chaney-Tucker
Executive Director

MKH

ATTACHMENT A

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION UTILITIES DIVISION

TO: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
Dwight D. Keen, Commissioner
Annie Kuether, Commissioner

FROM: Drennan Dolsky, Telecommunications Analyst
Steve Garrett, Deputy Chief of Telecommunications
Janet Buchanan, Deputy Director of Utilities
Justin Grady, Director of Utilities

DATE: September 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Docket No. 26-GNBT-087-TAR

In the Matter of the Application of Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc., for
Tariff Changes Related to the Cessation of Annual Distribution of a Dated
Directory.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 2, 2025, Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. (Golden Belt) filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) for revision of its Local Exchange Tariff. This revision will implement the Commission's August 22, 2024, Order Adopting Joint Staff and RLECs Proposed Replacement for the 1967 Directive Regarding Directories in Docket No. 24-GIMT-380-MIS (24-380 Order) as well as correct one typographical error found in Local Exchange Tariff, Part 1, Original Sheet 9. The tariff pages impacted by this revision include the following:

- Local Exchange Tariff, Part 1, Original Sheets 7, 9-12, 18 and Local Exchange Tariff Part 2, Original Sheets 2 & 7.

On September 10 & 12, 2025, Golden Belt filed amended documents correcting minor layout errors found in Local Exchange Tariff, Part 1, Original Sheet 7 & Part 2, Original Sheet 7, respectively, at the request of Commission Staff (Staff). Staff recommends approval of this Application. Following a suspension order, the Commission action date is April 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission derives its authority to review Local Exchange Carrier tariffs from K.S.A. 66-117(d), which states in part:

(d) Except as provided in subsection (c), no change shall be made in any rate, toll, charge, classification or schedule of charges or joint rates, or in any rule or

regulation or practice pertaining to the service or rates of any such public utility or common carrier, without the consent of the commission.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,189, the Commission must review rates and terms for every telecommunications public utility to ensure they are “just and reasonable” and the classifications, rules, and regulations regarding the services are not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

Additionally, K.S.A. 66-1,190 requires every public utility doing business in Kansas over which the Commission has control to publish and file with the Commission copies of all schedules of rates, joint rates, tolls, charges, classifications and divisions of rates affecting Kansas traffic, either state or interstate. The Commission has the power to prescribe reasonable rules and regulations regarding the form and filing of all schedules, tariffs and classifications of all rates, joint rates, tolls and charges, and all rules and regulations of such telecommunications public utilities as the Commission determines reasonable and appropriate.

The 24-380 Order allows a Rural Local Exchange Carrier (RLEC) discretion to continue to distribute a formal bound and printed directory to subscribers. Paragraph 6 of the 24-380 Order, herein known as the “Paragraph 6 Conditions”, creates the following conditions on a RLEC that elects to discontinue to distribute a formal bound and printed directory:

- Each RLEC will provide at least 90 days' notice before ceasing the distribution of a printed directory to every subscriber, through bill messages, bill inserts, website announcements and social media messaging, including information on (1) accessing any online or electronic directory, and (2) requesting a paper copy of the directory from the RLEC;
- The notice will also include information on how customers can communicate with the respective RLEC, or the Commission;
- The RLEC will inform new customers that they will not be receiving a printed directory, and will provide new customers with information on how to access an online directory or obtain a printed directory upon request; and
- RLECs that elect to stop distributing directories will send annual reminders to their customers that a printed directory will no longer be provided, but that the customer may request a paper/PDF copy of directory information.

ANALYSIS:

Golden Belt’s revision of its Local Exchange Tariff implements language that the Company will make available upon request and without charge, a copy of the directory to any subscriber. Such a list may be obtained in person at Company offices or on the Company’s website. Golden Belt notified subscribers of the directory change via an August 2025 newsletter.

Staff’s review has indicated the revisions to Golden Belt’s Local Exchange Tariff are just and reasonable and consistent with the Commission’s 24-380 Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff contends that Golden Belt’s application, including the amended Part 1, Sheet 7 & Part 2, Sheet 7 tariff sheets filed in the above-captioned docket on September 10 & 12, 2025, complies with the directives of the Paragraph 6 Conditions. Staff further recommends the Commission

approve Golden Belt Telephone's revisions to their Local Exchange Tariff to implement the language changes from the Commission's 24-380 Order with an effective date of October 2, 2025.

Staff recommends that the Commission condition the approval of Golden Belt's application upon its continued compliance with the notice requirements set forth in the Paragraph 6 Conditions of the Commission's 24-380 Order.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

26-GNBT-087-TAR

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of electronic service on 09/23/2025.

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/S/ KCC Docket Room

KCC Docket Room